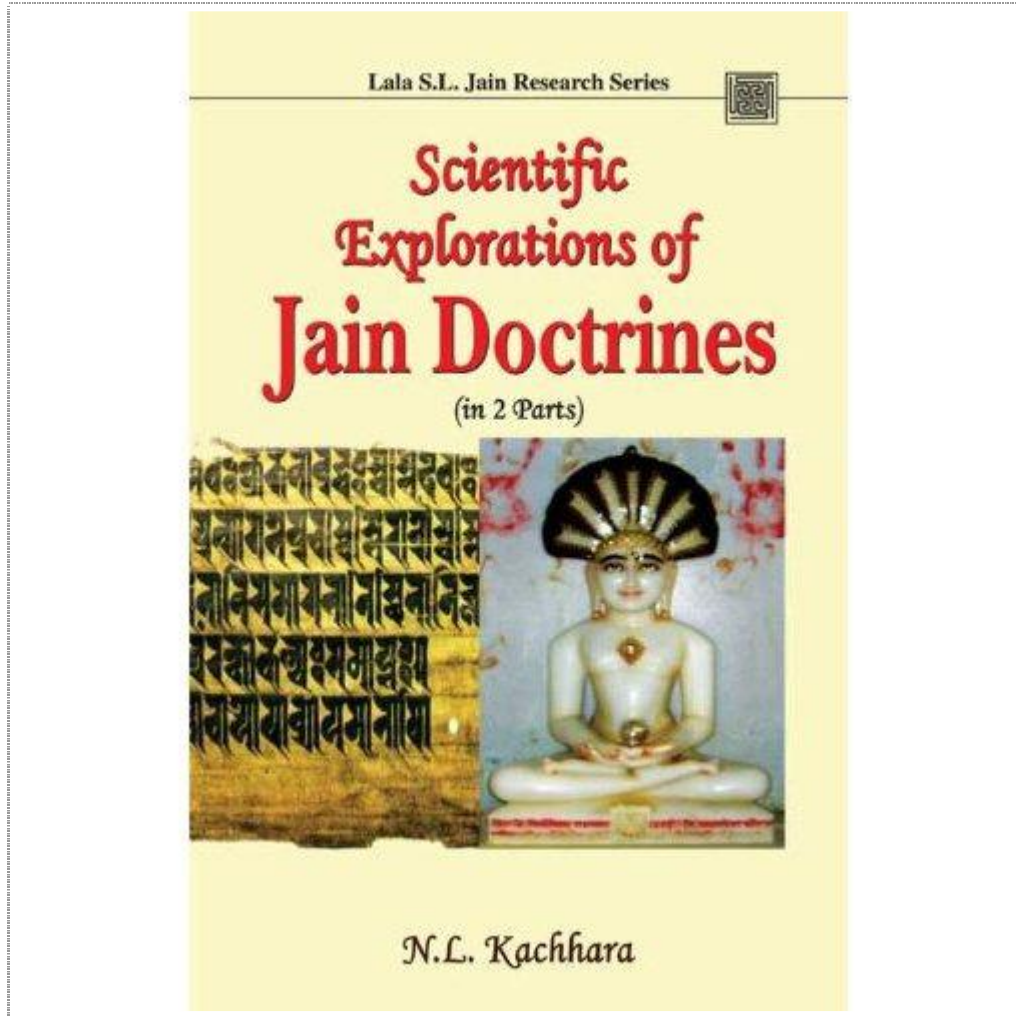


Scientific Explorations of Jain Doctrines: 2 Volumes



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Preface

...Jain philosophy holds a unique position among all faiths; it supports the transcendental nature of reality on a scientific ground. It describes the world in terms of substances which are distinct and function by their own properties and it does not need postulation of any super natural power or God for its existence or functioning. Soul is a substance in Jainism. Causality is the fundamental principle in Jainism applicable both to the biotic and abiotic world, a principle on which the whole edifice of science rests. The physical world of science is but only a small fraction of the vast horizons of knowledge contained in Jain philosophy which deals in detail with the transcendental nature of reality leading to realization of the ultimate Truth...

Author

Foreword

...This book shows that it can be very fruitful for science to study other thought-systems than those in which we were born and raised. In our days we can make use of the entire heritage of the mind-created global mosaic of cultures. Much more of such type of research should be done by able philosophers and scientists. Ancient thinkers have come up with insights that lack us today - causing unnecessary ignorance and suffering. Probably no philosopher in the world would disagree with the statement that there is no knowledge higher than Truth-but that there are many ways for the mind to approach her. Jainism is definitely more spiritual in its understanding than Western science and philosophy. It also covers subtle aspects of nature as yet unknown to or ill-understood by mainstream science. The book contains so much information on the modern science, including, for example, the latest theories and speculations of physics, chemistry, cosmology and genetics, and other disciplines, that for this reason alone it could be used as a general textbook for science students. But the great extra value of it is the extensive exposure of Jain ideas laid down in scriptures throughout the last two millennia by scholars and Jain acharyas (ascetics, monks). Then both traditions-modern science and Jain science-are thoroughly compared...

Dr. Rudi Jansma

Theosophical Study Center, Jaipur, India

Prologue

Scientific Explorations of Jain Doctrines is a tremendous scholarly work toward progress on the crucial task of linking modern and ancient sciences. It is a highly laudable contribution by Jain scholar Dr. Narayan Kachhara. The extensive scope of the book is a remarkable accomplishment. The book is a useful contribution not only for those in the Jain tradition who want deeper understanding of it, and not only to learn about Jainism, but also for greater depth and meaning of knowledge within the context of modern science...

RW Boyer, PhD

About the Book

The relationship between religion and science is one of the perennial topics for philosophers. Based on his extensive knowledge of Jaina texts, and firmly based in the rigorous tradition of Indian logic, Narayan Kachhara presents a lucid account of Jainism's relation to *scientific inquiry*. *It is a groundbreaking work that will be welcomed by the academic world.*

Nathan Katz

Bhagwan Mahavir Professor of Jain Studies
and Professor of Religious Studies
Florida International University

Narayan Kachhara has provided a handbook of the major categories of Jaina thought including karma, physical and mental properties, and spiritual states. He juxtaposes these insights with summaries of Western scientific theories on the nature of the universe and aspects of chemistry, physics, and biology.

Christopher Key Chapple

Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology
Loyola Marymount University

This book entitled, "Scientific Exploration of Jain Doctrines", really explores Jain doctrines in a scientific way. It is hard to find another book in this area that goes to so much depth. For many readers it would be beyond their expectation that one person with a formal education and career in Mechanical Engineering can cover so many fields of science. This book would prove highly valuable to those scholars of philosophy and metaphysics who want to explore not only Jain doctrines but are also interested in the modern science. I congratulate Professor Kachhara for this great work.

Dr. Paras Mal Agrawal

Visiting Professor, Oklahoma State University, USA
Emeritus Professor of Physics, Vikram University, Ujjain & Jain scholar

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